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1956

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

***Dartmouth and Totnes
Port Health Authority***



Chronicle (*Printers*), Dartmouth

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MEMBERS OF THE DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

REPRESENTATIVES FROM DARTMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman B. Lavers (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor H. J. Adams

Councillor H. Wheatley

Councillor E. W. Hayhoe

Councillor F. C. Mullett

REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor C. Gill, Dittisham.

Councillor S. Scadding, Stoke Gabriel

Councillor Mrs. E. Melville, J.P., Kingswear

Councillor Miss M. E. Tozer, Cornworthy

REPRESENTATIVE FROM TOTNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman R. F. Rowe (Chairman)

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Dartmouth and Totnes Port Health Authority
For the year ending December 31st, 1956**

To the Chairman and Members

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1956.

There has been no change in the Port Health District of Dartmouth and Totnes as constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

SECTION I.—Staff—No change.

SECTION II.

**Amount of Shipping entering the District
during the year 1956**

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
For'gn P'ts	211	13,338	6	211	Nil
Coastwise	113	52,860	10	113	Nil
Total	324	66,198	16	324	Nil

SECTION III.

Character of shipping and tonnage during the year 1956

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	{	Number of Passengers INWARDS—Nil
		Number of ,, OUTWARDS—Nil
Cargo Traffic	{	Principal IMPORTS—Coal, Timber, Cement
		Principal EXPORTS—Nil
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships arrive.—Goole, Blyth, London, Baltic Ports		

Ships proceeding up river to Totnes.	Total 29
Cement	13
Timber	16

Shipping entering the port has shown an increase in tonnage compared with 1955. Foreign shipping increased by 8,778 tons and coastwise by 3,194 tons.

Increase in shipping was mainly due to the use of the harbour as a rendezvous for the International Sailing Race from Torbay to Lisbon.

SECTION IV.—Inland Barge Traffic NIL

SECTION V.—Water Supply—No change.

Samples tested in March were satisfactory.

SECTION VI.—

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952— No change

SECTION VII.—Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent in the district:

County Smallpox Hospital, Upton Pines, Exeter.

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to the Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Ambulance is provided from the County Smallpox Hospital on application to the Resident Medical Officer. The Exeter Special Hospital Management Committee are responsible for the ambulance and the ambulance crews are vaccinated yearly.

(3) Names of Smallpox consultants available:

- Dr. C. Seward, Exeter
- Dr. W. J. Laird, Exeter

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox:

The Virus reference Laboratory, Colindale, London, N.W.4, or through the Public Health Laboratory at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

SECTION VIII.—Venereal Disease—No change.

SECTION IX.

Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Disease on Ships

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases from ships from foreign ports	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases from other ships	—	—	—	—

SECTION X.—

Observation on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships

NIL

SECTION XI.—

Measures taken against ships infested with, or suspected for, Plague

NIL

SECTION XII.—

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—Procedure for inspection of ships in Port:

Routine inspection of ships entering Port by Port Sanitary Inspector.

2.—Arrangements for bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague is carried out by Public Health Laboratory at Exeter.

Number of rodents sent for examination during the year.—NIL.

3.—There are no arrangements in the District for de-ratting ships.

4.—Procedure in the rat-proofing of ships.—NIL.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	Nil
Brown Rats	Nil
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination ...	Nil
Infected with plague ...	Nil

TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates
issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

No. of De-ratting Certificates issued					Number of De-rat'g ex'mption c'rtific's issued 6	Total C'rt'fi- cates Issued 7
After fumigation with		After rapp'g 3	After pois'n'g 4	Total 5		
HCN 1	Other fumigant (state method) 2					
Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION XIII.—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of serv- ing notice
		Stat'ry notices	Inf'mal notices	
General examination of crews' quarters, heads, water supply, store rooms, holds and bilges	324	Nil	4	Notices complied with and carried out satisfactorily
Total	324	Nil	4	

SECTION XIV.—Public Health (Shell - Fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948—No change.

SECTION XV.—Medical Inspection of Aliens—No change.

SECTION XVI.—Miscellaneous

There has been no change in the arrangements for burial of infectious cases or the disposal of Smallpox cases.

During 1956 the following patients were treated by me:—

1. At the Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital—

One case of Broncho-pneumonia
One case of Cerebral haemorrhage
One case of acute appendicitis which was transferred to R.N. Hospital, Devonport.

2. At Surgery or at Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital as outpatients—

Gallstones	2 cases
Minor bone injury	10
Suspected Food Poisoning	1 (proved negative)
Dermatitis	2
Otitis externa	1
Heart disease	1
Epilepsy	1
Minor ailments	16

3. There was one case of Venereal Disease on a vessel from foreign ports. There were no cases of Infectious disease.

All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and found satisfactory.

All sewer outfalls are satisfactory, excepting three at Dartmouth which are still defective.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. VERNIQUET, M.B., Ch.B.,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

